

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Yoshio HATA et al. : Attn: BOX PCT
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2001_0700A
Filed June 12, 2001 :

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYMER
[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/07013
Filed December 14, 1999]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

A' This application is a 371 of PCT/JP99/07013 filed December 14, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS

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A 9. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a biodegradable polymer that is used in a sustained-release preparation that releases a physiologically active substance over the course of at least about six months.

5/15/01
10. (Amended) A biodegradable polymer obtained by the production process as set forth in claim 1.